

Louisiana Big Game Recognition Program  
Fourth Recognition Period  
2001-2003

The Louisiana Big Game Records Program provides a permanent record of the outstanding white-tailed deer and wild turkeys harvested in Louisiana. The state record list is updated annually, at the end of each deer and turkey season. The Recognition Program documents this harvest in three-year intervals.

The Fourth Recognition Period, 2001-2003, documented information on 203 white-tailed deer and 16 wild turkeys. This listing far exceeds the Third Recognition Program, an indication that quality deer are being grown and harvested in this state.

Most of the large antlered bucks come from our bottomland hardwood parishes. Avoyelles Parish led the way as the overall top-producing parish. Avoyelles was number one in the gun and muzzleloader categories. East Carroll Parish produced the most bow-killed trophies.

A lot of good deer are being produced in northwest Louisiana. There has been an outdoor show in Shreveport for the past few years, which promotes a big buck contest. Many of these recognition deer are documented at this event. I am sure that if other regions of the state had such an event more deer would show up in the records than what is presently being recorded.

Table 1 shows the top 5 parishes for each deer category. Table 2 shows the best public lands area.

Shannon Deville harvested the top typical white-tail during this recognition period. His buck, taken in St. Landry Parish, scored 179 2/8 and is the number nine deer on the state list. Leon Bordelon killed a non-typical deer in Rapides Parish that scored 210 5/8. Both of these bucks will qualify for the all-time Boone and Crockett Club Record Book. Ronnie Wilkinson killed a buck that claimed the number one spot for the state typical muzzleloader category. This buck scored 170 3/8 and was killed in Concordia Parish. It too will qualify for Boone and Crockett Recognition.

There are sixteen wild turkeys recognized on the Fourth Recognition List. This is twice as many as was recorded in the previous three-year period. Karl Casanova killed a new state record in Washington Parish in 2002. His record was short-lived however when Duane Watson killed a gobbler one-week later in Vernon Parish that scored .4 of a point higher. The story behind Karl's turkey is presented in this edition of the Big Game Recognition Program records.

The Fifth Recognition Period, 2004-2006, is underway. There were only three turkeys killed during the 2004 season that qualified for recognition. All deer and turkey hunters who harvest a potential state record or recognition deer or turkey should contact their local wildlife official to have it officially scored; contacts and their phone numbers are presented in Table 3.

David Moreland  
LDWF, Deer Program

**Table 1**

Top Trophy and Recognition Deer Parishes

<u>Overall</u>	<u>Gun</u>	<u>Bow</u>	<u>Muzzleloader</u>
Avoyelles	Avoyelles	East Carroll	Avoyelles
Bossier	Bossier	Tensas	East Feliciana
Red River	Red River	St. Mary	
Webster	Webster	Concordia	
Concordia	Natchitoches	West Feliciana	

**Table 2**

Top Public Lands for Recognition Deer

Atchafalaya Delta WMA -	Bow
Lake Ophelia NWR -	Bow, Muzzleloader
Tensas River NWR -	Bow, Muzzleloader
Thistlethwaite WMA -	Gun, Bow, Muzzleloader

**Table 3**

Louisiana Big Game Records Contact Person – LDWF

Region 1	Steve Hebert	318/371-3050
Region 2	Jerald Owens	318/343-4044
Region 3	Czerny Newland	318/487-5885
Region 4	Reggie Wycoff	318/757-4571
Region 5	John Robinette	337/491-2575
Region 6	Tony Vidrine	337/948-0255
Region 7	Randy Myers	225/765-2360
Baton Rouge	David Moreland	225/765-2348